

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A flexible, scalable hardware and software platform that allows a service provider to easily provide internet services, virtual private network services, firewall services, etc., to a plurality of customers. One aspect provides a method and system for delivering security services. This includes connecting a plurality of processors in a ring configuration within a first processing system, establishing a secure connection between the processors in the ring configuration across an internet protocol (IP) connection to a second processing system to form a tunnel, and providing both router services and host services for a customer using the plurality of processors in the ring configuration and using the second processing system. a packet routing system and method is described that includes a processor identifier in each packet to route the packets to a physical processor, and a logical queue identifier to route the packets to the destination object within that processor.

15

"Express Mail" mailing label no.

EL 618477211

Date of Deposit: 13 September 2000

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Charles A. Remire

(Name)

Charles A. Remire 13 Sept 2000

(Signature) (date)